

In the tragic twelve days of July have certainly contributed to the disaster. But we energetically deny that Germany and its people, who were convinced that they were making a war of defence, were alone guilty.

Nobody will want to contend that the disaster took its course only in the disastrous moment when the successor to the throne of Austria-Hungary fell the victim of murderous hands. In the last fifty years the imperialism of all the European states has chronically poisoned the international situation. The policy of retaliation and the policy of expansion and the disregard of the rights of peoples to determine their own destiny have contributed to the illness of Europe, which saw its crisis in the world war.

Russian mobilization took from the statesmen the possibility of healing, and gave the decision into the hands of the military powers. Public opinion in all the countries of our adversaries is resounding with the crimes which Germany is said to have committed in the war. Here also we are ready to confess wrong that may have been done.

We have not come here to belittle the responsibility of the men who have waged the war politically and economically or to deny any crimes which may have been committed against the rights of peoples. We repeat the declaration which has been made in the German Reichstag at the beginning of the war, that is to say, "Wrong has been done to Belgium," and we are willing to repair it.

But in the manner of making war also Germany is not the only guilty one. Every nation knows of deeds and of people which the best nationals only remember with regret. I do not want to answer by reproaches to reproaches, but I ask them to remember when reparation is demanded not to forget the armistice. It took you six weeks until we got it at last, and six more until we came to know your conditions of peace.

Crimes in war may not be excusable, but they are committed in the struggle for victory and in the defence of national existence, and passions are aroused which make the conscience of peoples blunt.

The hundreds of thousands of non-combatants who have perished since November 11 by reason of the blockade were killed with cold deliberation after our adversaries had conquered and victory had been assured to them. Think of that when you speak of guilt and punishment.

The measure of the guilt of all those who have taken part can only be stated by an impartial inquest before a neutral commission, before which all the principal persons of the tragedy are allowed to speak and to which all the archives are open. We have demanded such an inquest and we repeat this demand.

In this conference also, where we stand toward our adversaries alone and without any allies, we are not quite without protection. You yourselves have brought us an ally, namely, the right which is guaranteed by the treaty and by the principles of peace.

The allied and associated Governments have forewarned in the time between the 5th of October and the 5th of November, 1918, a peace of violence, and have written a peace of justice on their banner. On the 5th of October, 1918, the German Government proposed the principles of the President of the United States of North America as the basis of peace, and on the 5th of November their Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, declared that the allied and associated Powers agreed to this basis, with two definite deviations.

The principles of President Wilson have thus become binding to both parties to the war—for you as well as for us and also for our former allies. The various principles demand from us heavy national and economic sacrifices, but the holy fundamental rights of all peoples are protected by this treaty. The conscience of the world is behind it. There is no nation which might violate it without punishment.

You will find us ready to examine upon this basis the preliminary peace which you have proposed to us, with a firm intention of rebuilding in common work with you that which has been destroyed and repairing any wrong that may have been committed, principally the wrong to Belgium, and to show to mankind new aims of political and social progress.

Considering the tremendous quantity of problems which arise we ought as soon as possible to make an examination of the principal tasks by special commissions of experts, on the basis of the treaty which you have proposed to us. In this it will be our chief task to reestablish the devastated vigor of mankind and of all the people who have taken part by international protection of the life, health and liberty of the working classes.

As our next aim, I consider the reconstruction of the territories of Belgium and of northern France, which have been occupied by us and which have been destroyed by war.

To do so we have taken upon ourselves the solemn obligation, and we are resolved to execute it to the extent which shall have been agreed upon between us. This task we cannot do without the cooperation of our former adversaries. We cannot accomplish the work without the technical and financial participation of the victorious peoples, and you cannot execute it without us.

Impoverished Europe must desire that the reconstruction shall be fulfilled with the greatest success and with as little expense as in any way possible. This desire can only be employed. It would be the worst method to go on and have the work done by German prisoners of war. Certainly this work is cheap, but it would cost the world dear if hatred and despair shall seize the German people when they consider that their brothers, sons and fathers who are prisoners are kept prisoners beyond the preliminary peace in former penal work.

Without any immediate solution of this question, which has been drawn out too long, we cannot come to a durable peace. Experts of both sides will have to examine how the German people may come up to their financial obligations to repair, without succumbing under their heavy burden. A crash would befall those who have a right to repair, to the advantages to which they have a claim, and would draw after it irretrievable disorder of the whole European economical system.

The vanquishers, as well as the vanquished peoples, must guard against this menacing danger with its incalculable consequences. There is only one means of banishing it—unlimited confessions of the economic and social solidarity of all the peoples in a free and rising League of Nations.

Gentlemen: The sublime thought to be derived from the most terrible disaster in the history of mankind is the League of Nations. The greatest progress in the development of mankind has been pronounced, and will make its way. Only if the gates of the League of Nations are thrown open to all who are of good will can the aim be attained, and only then the dead of this war will not have died in vain.

The German people in their hearts are ready to take upon themselves their heavy lot, if the bases of peace which have been established are not any more shaken.

The peace which may not be defended in the name of right before the world always calls forth new resistance against it. Nobody will be capable of subscribing to it with good conscience, for it will not be possible of fulfillment. Nobody could be able to take upon himself the guarantee of its execution which ought to lie in its signature.

We shall examine the document handed to us with good will and in the hope that the final result of our interview may be subscribed to by all of us.

Delegates of the twenty-seven nations which are parties to the peace pact attended the historic session, which was concluded at 3:51 o'clock.

Text in English and French Only.

The treaty, it is noted, has to do with Germany alone, except in so far as it is required that she accept agreements made by the Allies with the other Central Powers. The document, long as it is, is shorter than was indicated by some of the forecasts, which estimated its length at 100,000 words. The treaty is not printed in German. The text is in French and English, on opposite pages.

There has been much discussion of the question whether the German delegates would sign the peace treaty. The Germans at first proposed to send messengers to Versailles to take the treaty to Berlin, but they were made to understand that delegates with power to sign the terms of peace must be sent, and this was done. Furthermore, the Germans will be allowed only a definitely fixed time within which to sign the treaty.

Allied representation at the ceremonial to-day was made complete by the arrival in Paris this morning of Vittorio Orlando, the Italian Premier, and Baron Sonnino, the Foreign Minister, who it had been feared for a time would not be present because of the tangle over the Adriatic question. The Italians, however, indicated that they thought it necessary that a solid allied front be presented to the Germans, and their delegates returned from Rome despite the incomplete state of the Adriatic negotiations, which, however, they might affect the settlement with Austria-Hungary, do not figure in the making of the peace with Germany.

The day likewise found the representatives of Japan aligned squarely with the other Powers, any complications that might have been threatened

EGYPTIAN DEITIES

"The Utmost in Cigarettes"
Plain End or Cork Tip

People of culture and refinement invariably PREFER Deities to any other cigarette



over the question of Kiao-chau and the wording of the League of Nations covenant having been smoothed over.

The ceremonial of handing the treaty to the Germans took place in the hall of the Trianon Palace Hotel, a spacious, well lighted chamber, with tables for the delegates arranged nearly in the form of a square. It was presided over by Premier Clemenceau, President of the Peace Congress, who sat at the centre of the head table, with President Wilson and the other American representatives on his right and David Lloyd George, the English Premier, and his colleagues on the left. Mrs. Wilson was an interested spectator of the function.

TRIANON GUARDED TO CHECK CROWDS

Germans Arise Early and Fret at Delay.

By the Associated Press.

VERSAILLES, May 7.—Elaborate preparations were made for the historic occasion of handing the peace terms to the Germans in the Trianon Hotel to-day, both in and outside the building.

Outside there was a small army of gendarmes who formed a barrier against the approach of such persons as were not entitled to enter the room where the momentous scene was to be enacted. Inside everything was in readiness for the meeting between the allied and associated delegates with the German plenipotentiaries, although the early morning hours had witnessed a rearrangement of the great hall, for orders had been received to prepare seats for eighty delegates, instead of for fifty-eight, who were expected yesterday to compose the maximum delegation.

The French plenipotentiaries busied themselves with the task of stretching out tables to accommodate the extra guests and laying a new rug to fit the altered dimensions. The increase of the delegations was effected at the cost of space which had been assigned to the press.

Aside from the great men gathered in the hall the most striking feature was a large antique rug of bright, almost garish colors, which was brought from the Chateau Versailles to cover the open space in the centre of the hollow rectangle of the peace table. Although dating from the time of Louis XIV, the rug is in a perfect state of preservation. It is known as a "Savonnerie," and it served to brighten the entire room. The rug was the only link in the conference chamber connecting to-day's ceremony with the time when France was a monarchy.

Those who measure history by the day called attention to the fact that 177 days had passed since the armistice was signed and 109 days since the allied and associated Powers began their deliberations at Paris, the fruit of which was the peace treaty presented to-day.

The German delegation was early on foot and an air of marked excitement prevailed at its headquarters. The German plenipotentiaries, whose impatience at the indefinite defacement of the day of meeting led them, as revealed through German sources, to threaten to return to Berlin unless an early date was fixed for the ceremony, were making the last personal preparations.

Although only fourteen official German representatives and five correspondents attended the meeting in the Trianon Hotel the remaining members of the German delegation, now almost 250, were as excited as if they also had been assigned a role in the day's great ceremony.

The French authorities established a special postoffice at the Trianon for the benefit of souvenir gatherers. Letters and postcards will be stamped with a special commemorative postmark inscribed: "Versailles, Congress, 5-7-19."

Privileged guests were admitted inside the external barriers and lined both sides of the avenue up to within a short distance of the entrance to the Trianon Hotel. Automobiles bringing the allied delegations deposited them inside the courtyard of the hotel. At the main entrance door there was a platoon of the Twenty-sixth Battalion

GERMANS TO REFUSE TO PAY AN INDEMNITY

Assert That Punitive Damages Cannot Be Expected.

PARIS, May 7.—The German delegates to the Peace Congress assert that they will sign the peace treaty, but that Germany will not pay an indemnity.

In the discussion of peace terms by Germany through her official and unofficial spokesmen she invariably has drawn a distinction between reparation and indemnity, construing the latter in effect as punitive damages. It seems probable therefore that the refusal to pay an "indemnity" would mean in effect that she would decline to pay what she regarded as such damages.

WILSON NOT TO HURRY HOME.

Probably Will Remain in Paris Until Treaty Is Signed.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, May 7.—There is no indication that President Wilson contemplates hastening his return because of the convocation of Congress on May 19, and he will undoubtedly remain here through the period of fifteen days allowed the Germans for consideration of the peace terms, probably until the treaty is signed.

In case the negotiations are prolonged by suggestions advanced by the Germans it is possible he may forego the satisfaction of signing the treaty and return home. It is expected that he will send a message to be read in his absence.

GERMAN MUNITIONS BLOW UP.

Heavy Damage in Vicinity of Old Dump Near Brussels.

By the Associated Press.

BRUSSELS, May 6 (delayed).—A depot of German ammunition, containing shells and bombs of every calibre and many gas shells, has been exploding since yesterday morning at the railway station at Groendael, six miles south of Brussels, where Canadian troops were inspected by King Albert eight days ago. The depot has been under guard of 150 Belgian soldiers, and 600 German prisoners have been working near it.

Many houses in the neighborhood have collapsed and windows and roofs for two miles around have been shattered. The government of train over the Namur-Luxembourg line has been interrupted. It is reported that while workmen were unloading a wagon filled with shells a detonator exploded in the hands of a German prisoner, setting fire to the ammunition boxes. After the explosion the German prisoners broke the barred wire cord surrounding the camp and fled through the woods. Only 150 have been arrested since.

Japan's Crown Prince Is 18.

By the Associated Press.

TOKYO, May 7.—The attainment by Crown Prince Hirohito of his majority—18 years—was celebrated throughout Japan to-day. The Crown Prince drove through the streets of Tokyo to the cheers of the populace.

Lorraine Urges Rhine Boundary.

Metz, May 7.—The newspapers of Lorraine publish an appeal from the Mayor of Metz inviting all inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine to sign a petition asking France to protect herself economically, politically and militarily "by putting Germany back beyond the Rhine."



BELL'S INDIGESTION CURE

Industrial Opportunity

First-class manufacturing concern, with large organization of machine tool equipment, employing about eight hundred hands, would like to negotiate for bona fide propositions to manufacture in large quantities

MECHANICAL DEVICES

Equipment particularly suitable for precision work, 75,000 square ft. of floor space, with plenty of ground for expansion. The company's financial position is exceptionally strong. References: Bankers Trust Co., Citizens National Bank.

IF YOU ARE NOT A PRINCIPAL OF HIGHEST FINANCIAL STANDING, DO NOT ANSWER THIS ADVERTISEMENT

INTERNATIONAL FABRICATING CORP.

Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

TERMS OF TREATY SATISFY CAPITAL

Continued from First Page.

of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Those Senators who consented to discuss the treaty at all were impressed with the manner in which the League of Nations covenant had been woven into the treaty proper. They were not surprised, however, since there had been frequent announcement from Paris that this was to be done.

Another feature that proved interesting concerned the taking effect of the treaty, it having been pointed out that the first nation to sign after Germany accepts the pact would be first to end "the state of war," and therefore first in position to resume commercial relations with Germany. It was pointed out that this would mean a considerable advantage to first signers.

Danish the First "Free City."

It was shown also that Danish under the terms will occupy a unique position being the first "free city." Attention also was called to the fact that no reference was made concerning the return of Shanghai to China, but it is understood there is a "gentlemen's agreement" on this point.

Forcing Germany to recognize Great Britain's sovereignty over Egypt is regarded here as putting an end to the nationalistic aspirations of the Egyptians. With the summary of the treaty before them many of the diplomats here saw an explanation of what had been regarded as the hurried organization by the Council of Five of the operating machinery of the League of Nations. The treaty reveals that the league, on which the execution of many of the terms devolves, must begin to function almost immediately to discharge the terms of the treaty itself.

The treaty provides for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Europe, army officers here believe. These men see in the hard military terms imposed on Germany, with the promises of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George to request Congress and Parliament respectively to guarantee France against assault by Germany, an intention to leave the work of occupying Germany over to France.

Army officers and others scanned the terms industriously to learn just how they will affect the United States, and it was the conviction of the army men that the future of American military policy was closely linked with the terms and that the policy of the coming years must be based on the treaty provisions. It is regarded as likely that the President will define his ideas as to future American military policy when he addresses Congress upon his return.

An army and diplomatic circles here the treaty is looked upon as foreshadowing what Austria and Bulgaria and Turkey may expect. It was the general opinion that the statement at Paris had reached the conclusion that the best way to grapple with militarism was to tear it out by the roots.

Military men are somewhat puzzled

by President Wilson's promise to appeal to the Congress for approval of his assurance that America would rush to the aid of France in the event of further German aggression. In view of the hard terms they do not see how such aggression could be possible, and in some quarters the belief was another meaning back of the proposed alliance.

The promise to help France is taken by some to mean that the President has in sight an American military policy which will provide for keeping a well trained force ready in this country for immediate embarkation to Europe, together with ships and equipment. Plans for creating such a force will be announced, it is expected, as soon as the President returns.

EXEMPTION FOR SERVICE MEN.

President Waives Physical Test in the Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—President Wilson in an executive order cabled here from Paris has directed the Civil Service Commission to exempt soldiers, sailors and marines from physical requirements for any civil service position upon certification by the Federal Board of Vocational Education that the applicant has been specially trained and qualified for the position.

Paul Hymans Files to Paris.

PARIS, May 7.—Paul Hymans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, left Brussels by airplane at 1 o'clock yesterday morning and reached here at 2 P. M. in time to attend the plenary session of the Peace Conference.

10-Day Sea Trip S. S. LENAPE

Leaves New York May 13
Returning From Jacksonville May 19
New York to Jacksonville
(Calling at Charleston, S. C.)

Every extra convenience conducive to luxury in ocean travel: drawing room accommodations; rooms with private bath; unexcelled cuisine. Now is the time for a restful and invigorating sea trip, including St. Johns—the American Nile.

Other popular steamers from New York every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Reservations and tickets at
New Uptown Ticket Office
489 Fifth Avenue

or
CLYDE LINE

Pier 36, North River, New York
BUY VICTORY LOAN NOTES.

French to Investigate Holy Land.

TOULON, France, May 7.—A French Government mission sailed from here yesterday for Beirut to make an economic investigation of Syria and Palestine.



PROPER grooming is achieved by some men intuitively—others accomplish it by a judicious choice of Haberdashers.

These stores have built up the largest Haberdashery business in the United States by serving both classes well.

Our merchandising activities concern themselves solely with Correct, Metropolitan Ideas—no others.

Whatever the article—Shirt, Scarf, Robe, Hosiery or whatever else we sell—we have first determined for ourselves that it is Correct.

And having so determined, we are equally zealous in matters of quality and value.

Weber & Heilbronner

Clothiers, Haberdashers and Hatters—Eleven Stores

*241 Broadway *345 Broadway *775 Broadway *1185 Broadway

*44th and Broadway *1363 Broadway *58 Nassau *150 Nassau

*20 Cortlandt *2nd and 5th Avenue

*CLOTHING AT THESE STORES

New Yorkers! Over the Top!

with the

VICTORY LOAN

at the

Metropolitan Opera House

To-night at 8:00 o'clock

Hon. WM. H. TAFT

Hon. WM. G. McADOO

Eminent Musical and Operatic Artists

166th Infantry (42nd Division) Overseas Band

Tickets may be had on application to

METROPOLITAN CANVASS COMMITTEE

Room 2534, 120 Broadway

Northwest corner of 43rd Street and Vanderbilt Ave.

2155 Broadway, at 76th Street

NO SEATS HELD AFTER 8:15